

Atty. Docket No. DE9-1999-0085US1
(590.027)

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for coding ~~and storing~~ phonetic information representable as an original character sequence, the method comprising the step of coding the phonetic information in a bit code steps of:

~~coding the phonetic information in a bit code~~

identifying phonetic features of a character sequence; and

representing the identified phonetic features as a bit string.

2. (Currently Amended) The method ~~for coding and storing~~ phonetic information according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of deriving said phonetic ~~information from names~~ wherein the character sequence is a name.

3. (Currently Amended) The method ~~for coding and storing~~ phonetic information according to Claim 1, wherein the bit code related to said phonetic ~~information~~ string has a length of 32 bits.

4. (Currently Amended) The method ~~for coding and storing~~ phonetic information according to Claim 3, further comprising the step of replacing ~~with~~ at least one group of characters, ~~consisting of said original~~ in the character sequence, with a

Atty. Docket No. DE9-1999-0085US1
(590.027)

respective corresponding number of normalized character groups having the same or a similar sound when spoken but a different spelling.

5. (Currently Amended) The method ~~for coding and storing phonetic information~~ according to Claim 4, further comprising the steps of:

covering the beginning portion of ~~said original~~ the character sequence with a first normalized character group;

covering the middle portion of ~~said original~~ the character sequence with one or more of said normalized character groups;

BZ and covering the end portion of ~~said original~~ the character sequence with one of said normalized character groups.

6. (Currently Amended) The method ~~for coding and storing phonetic information~~ according to Claim 5, further comprising the step of extracting said normalized character groups from particular tables providing a mapping between ~~said original~~ the character sequence groups and said normalized character groups by a respective provision of a cross-reference in said table.

7. (Currently Amended) The method ~~for coding and storing phonetic information~~ according to Claim 6, further comprising the step of empirically founding said tables comprising groups of ~~said original~~ the character sequences.

Atty. Docket No. DE9-1999-0085US1
(590.027)

8. (Currently Amended) The method ~~for coding and storing phonetic information~~ according to Claim 7, further comprising the step of spelling actual language in use which reflect the specific phonetics.

9. (Currently Amended) The method ~~for coding and storing phonetic information~~ according to Claim 5, further comprising the step of decreasing a coding precision with a distance from the beginning of ~~said original~~ the character sequence.

10. (Currently Amended) The method ~~for coding and storing phonetic information~~ according to Claim 9, further comprising the step of coding a first character with five (5) bits.

b2
11. (Currently Amended) A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by said machine to perform method steps for coding ~~and storing~~ phonetic information, said method comprising the steps of:

~~coding said phonetic information in a bit code;~~

identifying phonetic features of a character sequence, wherein the character sequence is a name;

representing the identified phonetic features as a bit string;

~~deriving said phonetic information from names;~~

replacing with at least one group of characters, ~~consisting of an original in the~~

Atty. Docket No. DE9-1999-0085US1
(590.027)

character sequence, with a ~~respective~~ corresponding number of normalized character groups having the same or similar sound when spoken with a different spelling;

covering the beginning portion of ~~said original~~ the character sequence with a first normalized character group;

covering the middle portion of ~~said original~~ the character sequence with one or more of said normalized character groups;

covering the end portion of ~~said original~~ the character sequence with one of said normalized character groups;

b2 extracting said normalized character groups from particular tables providing a mapping between ~~said original~~ the character sequence and said normalized character groups by a respective provision of a cross-reference in said table;

empirically founding said tables comprising groups of ~~said original~~ character sequences;

spelling actual language in use which reflect the specific phonetics;

decreasing a ~~coding~~ representative precision with a distance from the beginning of said original character sequence;

~~coding~~ a representing the first character of the character sequence with a 5-bits bit string.

Atty. Docket No. DE9-1999-0085US1
(590.027)

12. (Currently Amended) A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for providing symbol insertion in accordance with Claim 11, wherein a bit ~~code~~ string related to said phonetic information has a length of 32 bits.

13. (Original) ~~A~~ An coding and storing phonetic information apparatus for coding phonetic information, the apparatus comprising:

a coder which codes ~~said~~ phonetic information about a character sequence in a bit ~~code~~ stream;

a deriver which derives said phonetic information from names;

B2
a replacer which replaces ~~with~~ at least one group of characters, ~~consisting of said original in the~~ character sequence, with a ~~respective~~ corresponding number of normalized character groups having the same or a similar sound when spoken but a different spelling;

a coverer which covers the beginning portion of ~~said original~~ the character sequence with a first normalized character group;

a second coverer which covers the middle portion of ~~said original~~ the character sequence with one or more of said normalized character groups;

a third coverer which covers the end portion of ~~said original~~ the character sequence with one of said normalized character groups;

Atty. Docket No. DE9-1999-0085US1
(590.027)

an extractor which extracts said normalized character groups from particular tables providing a mapping between ~~said original~~ the character sequence groups and said normalized character groups by a respective provision of a cross-reference in said table;

a founder which empirically founds said tables comprising groups of said ~~original~~ the character sequences;

B2 a speller which spells actual language in use which reflects the specific phonetics;

a decreaser which decreases a coding precision with a distance from the beginning of said original character sequence;

a second coder which codes a the first character of the character sequence with a 5-bit bit string.
